

established guides for neighborhood desirability based on racial composition. Homogeneous communities for white, northern European background residents were seen as best investment for homeowners and others. Some early zoning laws sought to limit, by race, people who could live in certain communities, as did some practices of the real estate sector. Although the Supreme Court, in its 1917 decision in *Buchanan v. Worley*, struck down these racial restrictions, these racial biases were incorporated into FHA rules and formed the basis for many private agreements to segregate and form racially restrictive covenants.

WW II

Following the Second World War, returning GIs, through the GI bill, were offered a path to homeownership. African Americans and other minority group members were excluded from these GI bill benefits in many communities. The great migration of the middle class to suburbs was largely a white phenomenon, creating segregated white suburbs and large isolated urban minority communities. There was little response by the government or the courts. Most notable, was the Supreme Court in 1948 ended judicial enforcement of racially restrictive covenants in the case *Shelley v. Kraemer*.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

The Civil Rights movement, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s work in Chicago, brought renewed attention to housing discrimination. The federal government, first through executive order then through the Civil Rights Act of 1964, banned discrimination in federally funded housing. By 1961, seventeen states had passed fair housing or open housing laws. It was not until April 1968, following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that Congress passed the Fair Housing Act.

Also in April 1968, the Supreme Court ruling in *Jones v. Mayer* held that the Civil Rights Act of 1866 prohibited discrimination in private real estate transactions. That law lacked an effective government enforcement mechanism, and covered racial and religious discrimination. Gender discrimination was prohibited in 1974. In 1988, in response to growing awareness of the housing issues faced by families with children and persons with disabilities, the adoption of the Fair Housing Act Amendments established effective government enforcement and extended protections to families with children and persons with disabilities.

Madam Speaker, in light of this long battle for fair housing, I ask that the House pass this bill.

RECOGNIZING BILLIE RAY HUDDLESTON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. HALL of Texas. Billie Ray Huddleston was born in Celina on August 23, 1929. His love for church, family, school and community continues even as he celebrates his 80th birthday.

Billie Ray has lived his entire life in Celina, where he attended Celina High School and graduated in 1946. He then attended North Texas State College, now known as the Uni-

versity of North Texas, and graduated in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science. He taught math for 10 years until deciding to farm full time, first with his father and then with his son, and continues to help his son and grandson as needed.

During his farming years, Billie Ray served on the Celina Cooperative Gin Board for 37 years. He has been a longtime director of the Collin County Farm Bureau and for six years served as a director of the Texas Farm Bureau. During part of this time he served on the Southern Farm Bureau Insurance Boards and continues to be involved in federal and state legislative affairs. He also served on the Project 2000 Committee for long-range planning to carry Texas Farm Bureau into the next century. He has been the recipient of many awards, including the Collin County Conservation Farmer of the Year, Denton Wise County Conservation Farmer of the Year, Collin County Farmer of the Year and the Collin County Farm Bureau Pioneer Award.

In 1955, Billie Ray married Jane Merritt and they have four children: Charles and his wife Sherry of Celina, Janet and her husband Randy of Celina, Laurie and her husband Russell of Waco, and Mike and his wife Ingrid of Keller. They are the grandparents of 11 beautiful grandchildren.

During the time his children were in the Celina schools he served for 13 years as a trustee of the Celina Independent School District. He was also a member of the Quarterback Club for many years, serving as captain in 1973.

His civic involvement includes serving on the Celina City Council for 2 terms during which the first Comprehensive Plan was formed, and recently he served on the committee for the current comprehensive plan which is in its final stages. Seeing the need for a public park, he was instrumental in securing the land and negotiating the purchase of more than 40 acres, where a wonderful park was dedicated in 2006 to the City of Celina. In 2002 he and his wife, Jane, were awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Chamber of Commerce "in recognition of their continuous service and support." In July of 1976 he was recognized by The American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Texas for his participation in celebrating the Bicentennial.

Billie Ray has been a member of the First Baptist Church in Celina since 1951 and has served as a deacon for 53 years. He has been such an important and influential member of the Celina community, and his many friends today join his family in wishing a wonderful 80th birthday to this great citizen, Billie Ray Huddleston.

CONGRATULATING THE PLANO EAST AND PLANO WEST JROTC ACADEMIC TEAMS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, congratulations are in order. This June, the Plano East JROTC Academic team placed fifth in a competition from schools around the globe in Washington, D.C. Out of 1,645 Army JROTC programs, 72 teams (24

academic/48 leadership) from around the globe competed in Level III of the 2009 U.S. Army JROTC Academic and Leadership Bowl competition, the final level of the Army JROTC Academic and Leadership Championship. Plano East JROTC deserves special recognition for their achievement.

In addition, on March 5th, the Plano East and Plano West Senior High School JROTC Academic Teams earned 1st and 3rd place honors, respectively, out of 198 teams/schools, in the U.S. Army JROTC 5th Brigade portion of the 2009 U.S. Army JROTC Academic and Leadership Bowl competition.

The Panther JROTC Academic Team is comprised of: Team Commander c/1LT Zen Ren upcoming Senior, c/CSM James Untiedt upcoming Senior, c/1SG Amber VanHecke upcoming Junior, c/SSG Sabrina Gibson upcoming Junior. The two alternates were Plano East Senior cadets Mary Walker and Harrison Stone.

Competition questions are based on the SAT, ACT, JROTC curriculum and current events. The test is administered jeopardy-style, via the Internet, with a 30 second time limit for each question. The team members are able to quickly read, discuss, and exchange information before finalizing an answer.

According to Major (Ret) John Napoli, Jr., who serves as the Director of Army Instruction for the Plano Independent School District, "we are proud of the academic accomplishments of all our students. This bowl is one of many ways we challenge our students on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. Our foremost priority in JROTC is to the academic and professional development of all our students. In the last two years alone our graduating seniors have earned over \$4.5 million in college scholarship monies."

The cadets and the Plano East Senior Army Instructor LTC (R) Bernard Aikens are shining examples of the future leadership and military excellence that you can only find in America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 460, I inadvertently did not vote, but intended to vote "yes."

SEVERELY INJURED VETERANS' BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I join my good friends and colleagues, MIKE MICHAUD of Maine and HENRY BROWN of South Carolina, in introducing the Severely Injured Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2009. This bill will provide increased benefits to our most severely injured veterans.

Madam Speaker, as servicemembers are returning from the Global War on Terror with